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## WASTE OF MILLIONS FACES SCHOOL FUND

**Quick Action Must Be Taken By  
Legislature to Relive Cimarron  
State River Bed Oil Lease Situa-  
tion—Unable to Build Storage  
Facilities Owing to Big Sum Paid  
For Rights and Can Not Sell  
Product—Forced to Drill Wells.**

The state school fund will lose from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 unless the legislature takes quick action upon convening here on January 5 to relieve the present situation in connection with the operations of state oil leases in the bed of the Cimarron river, according to estimates made by competent authorities.

The state has leased several miles of the bed of the Cimarron river to private individuals and oil companies which are paying to the school fund royalties as high as 51 per cent of the production of their leases. Three miles of these river bed leases lie in the heart of the Cushing oil field, the richest producing district in the world. The banks of the river in this section of the field are lined with derricks of private oil companies, most of them backed by millions of dollars and storage facilities for millions of barrels of oil.

Owing to the large royalties that the state lessees are compelled to pay to the school fund department and difficulties in connection with securing land upon which to build their tanks, they are unable to build storage facilities to handle their production. As a result some of the wells belonging to the state lessees are shut down while private owners along the river banks are taking out the flush production and draining the pool beneath the river.

### Apply for Relief.

Two of the state lessees recently requested the state corporation commission to permit them to sell their oil for 40 cents a barrel. These are the Cleveland oil corporation and the Noranda company, which are paying the state a royalty of 51 per cent. They claim that they cannot afford to build storage and that they have an opportunity to sell all their production as it comes from the wells at 40 cents. They applied to the corporation commission for permission to sell their oil at 40 cents but that body thus far has withheld its consent, taking the position that to permit a cut on the price would break down the present market price of oil and violate the present rule of the commission fixing the minimum price at 55 cents a barrel.

The state seems to be confronted with one of its own rules in these cases and is losing money at a rapid rate through its operation. J. H. Chambers, attorney for the state school land department, said today that unless some relief is soon granted the state will lose approximately \$4,000,000 a day for the next 30 days by reason of the inability of its lessees to drill off-shore wells of the big oil companies on the river banks and secure their share of the flush production. The state lessees, brought in a well with approximately 3,000 barrels production and the oil companies on the river banks immediately began sinking nine wells. Unless the state lessees can sell their oil and drill off-shore wells the state will lose millions of dollars.

### Must Drill.

Each state lease contains a requirement that the lessee must drill an offset well within fifteen days for each line well drilled on adjoining properties. This safeguard, however, proves valueless where the state lessee is unable to store or sell his production while his competitors have unlimited storage and marketing facilities. The private lessees also have a big advantage in that they pay only one-eighth royalty while the state lessees pay in some cases more than half of their gross production to the state.

Attorney Chambers suggested today that the legislature could solve the difficulty in two ways, one by making an appropriation to build a state refinery to take care of the portion of the oil received by the state in royalties, and the other by making an appropriation whereby the state could build tankage for its lessees in which to store the portion of the oil belonging to the school fund.

### Take State Oil?

It is persistently rumored that some of the big oil companies along the river banks are drilling wells inside the government meander line and thus encroaching upon the portion of the river bed which belongs to the state. It is said that thousands of barrels of oil are being drawn each day from property belonging to the state because of wells drilled within the meander line. Attorney Chambers stated today that he did not know of any wells drilled within the line but in case such discovery were made the state could proceed to condemn those properties and take them over.

### DEMANDS FOR COTTON LOAN EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Washington, Dec. 19.—Although no complete list of applications for loans from the \$125,000,000 cotton loan fund are available in Washington, it was said here last night that demands were exceeding expectations and that predictions that the fund would not be borne out by a few borrowers would not be borne out. One official in close touch with the situation declared last night he believed a trip through the south in the interest of the fund would develop enough requests to take up the entire amount.

## HE WANTS TO KNOW

**Arkansas School Boy Write Governor  
Cruce a Letter Asking Location of  
Capitol of Oklahoma.**

So far as the pupils of the Forest Grove, Ark., school are concerned the matter of where the capital of Oklahoma is located will be settled, once for all, when a letter from Governor Cruce addressed to Francis Sands reaches the latter. Francis wrote the governor saying the scholars in his school are having quite a controversy over where the Oklahoma capital is located, some contending that it is in Guthrie and others, including the writer, that it is at Oklahoma City. Francis says that he is twelve years old, and the quality of his writing, both in composition and penmanship, shows that he has taken advantage of his school hours. Governor Cruce is answering the letter of inquiry as to the location of the capital. The capital is located in Oklahoma City.

## STATE CHARITY DAY

**All Proceeds in Missouri go to Sufferers  
in European War—Special Ship For  
Gifts.**

St. Louis, Dec. 19.—This is charity day in Missouri by proclamation of the governor and all proceeds are to be devoted to the relief of the European war sufferers. Contributions of money or foodstuffs are being solicited by workers in every town in the state. These will be given to the American relief committee which will fill a "Missouri ship" for Europe.

## PARDON TO DEAD MAN

**Friends Just Learn that Prisoner Died  
Eighteen Years Ago in Missouri  
Penitentiary.**

Jackson Miss., Dec. 19.—Governor Brewer of Mississippi, has pardoned a convict who has been dead eighteen years. The Governor in compliance with a lengthy petition that Jim Johnson, negro, sentenced twenty-five years ago be pardoned, granted the request. In an endeavor to secure papers it was discovered that the negro died in 1881.

## MINISTER WHO DEFRAUDED FARMER IS PAROLED

St. Louis, Dec. 19.—Aaron D. Davidson, a former Methodist preacher, sentenced to three years imprisonment on a charge of defrauding James E. Downes, a retired farmer of Assumption, Ill., in a land deal, has been paroled by Governor Major of Missouri. He also had been convicted in Illinois on a similar charge but Wednesday he was paroled by Governor Dunne.

Davidson served practically three years of the five to which he was sentenced altogether. It was urged in the application for parole that the land sold to Downes has since developed mineral properties and is worth many times the sale price.

## CHARGED WITH KIDNAPPING MINEK MAN IS FREED

Bozeman, Mont., Dec. 19.—After both sides rested Herbert Carey, charged with kidnapping Richard O'Brien, the Butte miner on August 29, withdrew his plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty of false imprisonment. He was sentenced by Judge Law to one year in the county jail.

C. W. Malone, amher, who was tried for the same offense was acquitted last night.

## VILLA BUYS PULLMANS FOR MEXICAN RAILROAD

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 19.—General Villa has purchased two Pullman sleepers for which he paid 100,000 pesos and has ordered them put into service between Torreon and El Paso. He announced that he plans to restore rail communication on a regular schedule between Mexico City and El Paso within three weeks.

## SCARBOROUGH BOMBARDED BY GERMAN CRUISER



Scarborough, on the east coast of England, is one of the greatest watering places in the British Isles and is a city of considerable importance, with a population of 40,000.

It is finely situated in the form of an amphitheatre on slopes rising from the sea and mounting a promontory jutting into the North Sea. It is a little more than 200 miles from London and thirty-seven miles northwest of the city of York. On the headland and commanding a fine view of the harbor are the ruins of a twelfth century castle. Near that is the ancient church of St. Mary consisting of a nave of what was originally a late Norman and Early English church. The fashionable

parade is the Marine Drive, two and a half miles long, protected by a sea wall and embellished with gardens. Scarborough is popularly known as the "Queen of Watering Places." There is a large spa, a fine museum and promenade pier.

## FRENCH HALTED NEAR TRENCHES

**Barbed Wires Stop Advance Up-  
on Germans' Second De-  
fense Lines.**

## ALLIES FILL INSANE WARDS

**Fierce Trench Fire Around  
Ypres Causes Many to Be-  
come Unbalanced.**

Paris, Dec. 19.—Official announcement issued today says:

"During December 18th we organized in the Belgium territory won from the enemy the evening before south of Dixmude, and we advanced to the south of the line at Kortoker.

"Our advance to the south of Ypres continued over swampy territory.

"From Lys to Oise we have progressed.

"This progress was made and netted an advance of one kilometer.

"Near Albert, during the nights of December 17-18 we reached the barbed wire entanglements of the second line of German trenches. North of Marcourt we were obliged to abandon the trench we occupied the night before.

"Several German trenches were occupied near Mametz. Near Lihons, three violent counter attacks were repulsed.

"In the Argonne, in the forest of La Grurie, we blew up a German underground trench. Near St. Hubert, the enemy by a spirited attack, made slight progress.

"It has been confirmed that on the heights of the Meuse our fire directed by aviators, demolished two heavy batteries."

Southampton, Eng., Dec. 19.—Insanity and nervous prostrations are claiming large numbers of the allies who have lain for weeks under the German fire in the trenches around Ypres. The insanity wards in the big government hospitals at Netley are filled to overflowing, and all the hospitals in the south of England have many patients mentally affected.

Many of these patients declared when they left Belgium that they could never endure further service under the fire of heavy guns, but now clamor to return to the field of action.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—Today's official statement says:

"Yesterday there was a series of hostile attacks in the western arena. The fighting continues at Neuport, Hlochote and La Bassée. We repulsed attacks west of Lens, east of Albert and west of Noyon.

"On the east Prussian frontier a Russian cavalry attack west of Pillkallen was repulsed.

In Poland pursuit of the enemy continues."

London, Dec. 19.—During the week which ended December 7th, ninety-two British officers were killed in France, 152 were wounded and twenty were reported missing. The losses are almost evenly scattered throughout virtually all the organizations at the front; no one regiment had more than three officers killed.

"The total casualties of officers since the war began follows:

"Killed 1,078; wounded 2,071; missing 602.

London, Dec. 19.—King George today sent a message to Hussein Kemal, whose appointment as Sultan of Egypt, was announced yesterday, assuring him of his sincere friendship and unflinching support in safeguarding the integrity of Egypt. The King's message said:

"I am convinced that you will be able, with the co-operation of your ministers and the protectorate of Great Britain, successfully to overcome such influences which are seeking to destroy the independence of Egypt."

Amsterdam, Dec. 19.—According to the Budapest newspaper Pesti Naplo an armored train enroute from Lemburg to the Carpathians with ammunition and food has been blown up.

London, Dec. 19.—Dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph reports that a German aeroplanes has been stranded on the Danish coast of Fano in the North Sea, off the west coast of Jutland. The aviators were arrested and interned in Denmark.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—Berlin still is in festive array celebrating the reported victory in Poland, but the people have experienced a shade of disappointment from the brevity of the official war bulletin, which failed to supply the details of the Polish engagement. The newspapers point out that the present development in the eastern arena will require several days to reach a stage where net results can be set forth.

Athens, Dec. 19.—Official announcement is made that 100 lives were lost, including some German officers when the Turkish battleship Meschick was torpedoed by a British submarine and sunk in the Dardanelles.

London, Dec. 19.—Every man in the British uniform on land or at sea will have plum pudding for his Christmas dinner. A Christmas pudding fund has been raised and more than \$50,000 has already provided more than 500,000 puddings.

## THIRTY INJURED IN CAR CRASH

**Interurban Collides With Street  
Carrier in Kansas City--  
One Will Die.**

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 19.—Thirty persons were injured, one probably fatally, when a northbound street car, loaded with shoppers bound down town from the fashionable country club residence district, collided head-on with a southbound interurban car on the "Strang Line," which operates electric trains between Kansas City and Olathe, Kansas. The accident occurred at Twenty-fourth and Grand avenue and was caused by a split switch. Pat Bedsworth, mortorman of the interurban car, probably will die. Injuries to passengers were mostly cuts and bruises and none are believed dangerous.

Both cars were crowded with passengers. The impact of the collision was so great that the heavy interurban train plowed its way half through the street car. Dozens of passengers escaped by jumping.

## SAYS HE LED TICKET

**W. M. Franklin Clerk of State  
Supreme Court Secured Greatest  
Majority Over Nearest Opponent.**

W. M. Franklin, clerk of the state supreme court, has secured official figures, which show that he led all other state candidates in the recent general election in the amount of his plurality over his chief opponent.

According to Mr. Franklin's figures he received a plurality of 24,200 over the Republican candidate for clerk of the supreme court, F. B. Howard state auditor-elect stood next with a plurality of 22,304 over his opponent and W. J. Alexander state treasurer-elect, third with a plurality of 22,249 over the Republican candidate. Howard led the state ticket in the total number of votes received by 71 according to Mr. Franklin's figures.

## ROMANIAN COMMISSION VISITS SECRETARY BRYAN

Washington, Dec. 19.—Roumanian's special commission sent to inquire into the ability of American manufacturers to furnish military supplies and equipment for the Roumanian army has reached Washington and paid a visit of courtesy to Secretary Bryan at the state department. Such supplies formerly were obtained in Germany and Austria, which sources have been cut off by the war.

## BLANCO REPORTED NAMED A MINISTER BY CARRANZA

Brownsville, Tex., Dec. 19.—A private letter from Mexico City says General Lucio Blanco who commanded Mexican City upon the evacuation of Carranza, has been named minister de gobernacion in Gutierrez' cabinet. There was no confirmation from sources.

## WORKMAN'S ARM MANGLED BY A COTTON GIN BELT

Rush Springs, Ok., Dec. 19.—H. W. Kennard of this place lost an arm yesterday afternoon by having it caught in a belt at the cotton gin here. It was so badly mangled that amputation was necessary.

Kennard was caught in the belt on the stand and in an instant his arm was badly mangled. Before the machinery could be stopped, he was taken at once to a Chickasha hospital, where his arm was amputated.

## CHILD WIDOW SHRINKS FROM FATHER, SLAYER OF HUSBAND

New City, N. Y., Dec. 19.—The jury in the trial of William V. Cleary for the murder of his son-in-law, Eugene M. Newman, witnessed a dramatic scene late yesterday when the young widow, Anna Cleary Newman, was brought into the courtroom to testify for her father, former town clerk of Haverstraw and prominent politician. She wore a white shirtwaist and a white feather in her hat. The girl of 20 was assisted toward the witness chair by her uncle. She clung to her relative as though dreading the coming ordeal.

Her father had not seen her since July 22, the day before Newman was shot as he was waiting to tell Cleary that he and Anna were married. As his daughter reached his side he jumped to his feet and reached out to take her in his arms.

The girl shrank away from him but Cleary would not be denied. He seized her in his firm embrace and kissed her repeatedly.

When the girl was led trembling to the stand Cleary collapsed, falling over on the counsel table.

He recovered quickly, however, and turned his eyes upon Anna, who did not return his gaze. When she had finished her testimony and again passed by where her father sat she made no response whatever as he reached out and patted her hand.

Few questions were asked the young widow. The defense, whose witness she was, contented itself with getting her to say that Newman was the father of her child and that she had not told her father or her mother of her marriage. It had been previously testified during the afternoon that Cleary had learned on July 22 that Anna was to become a mother and that on July 22 and 23, he had drunk to excess and acted irrationally. Through his wife it was brought out that up to the time he shot Newman he did not know the boy was his son-in-law.

The cross-examination of the young woman was almost equally brief. She said she and Newman had been sweethearts from childhood and that they saw each other frequently, despite the fact that her parents had forbidden them to meet. They were married on the night of July 18, she testified.

Mrs. Cleary in her testimony said that on the day of the tragedy she had twice talked over the telephone with Newman, but no mention was made of the marriage. She had been told before that, however, of the marriage by a physician who had attended her daughter a few days previous to the shooting.

## AGED WOMAN MURDERER FREED After Many Years in Prison

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 19.—Mrs. Cobb, of Norwich, who has been confined in the state prison at Wethersfield for nearly thirty-six years for the murder of her husband, has been granted a pardon by the state board of pardons. She was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1879.

The pardoning of Mrs. Cobb, who is now 96 years old, recalls one of the most sensational crimes in the annals of Connecticut courts. Her husband, Charles Cobb, was tax collector of the city of Norwich. He was found dead in January, 1879. Soon afterward Mrs. Wesley Bishop, a member of another prominent Norwich family also died suddenly. Both families were intimate.

The coroner's inquest showed that both Cobb and Mrs. Bishop had died of poisoning. Mrs. Cobb and Bishop were arrested and it developed in the trial that the two had planned separate murders in order that they might be free to marry. Both were sentenced to life imprisonment. Bishop died in prison two years ago. Although they were confined in cells not many hundred feet apart, the two never saw each other from the day they were sentenced. It is said Bishop had requested that he might see Mrs. Cobb before he died, but she declined to see him.

## SAVED BY QUIET SEA PRINCE BUYS A SHIP

Ship With Million Dollar Cargo  
Floundering slowly Toward San  
Diego Harbor After Accident.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 19.—Stout bulkheads, and a comparatively quiet sea promised to prove the salvation of the American Hawaiian steamer Isthmian, which with a hole in her bow is foundering toward this harbor. The United States cruiser West Virginia, the destroyer Perry and the naval tug Iroquois were standing by. The Isthmian carries a million dollar cargo of fruits and wines and a crew of forty.

The steamer fouled a tip off San Benito Island, three hundred miles south of here early yesterday.

## CIVIL SERVICE CAUSES DISPUTE

**Question of Method to Be Used in  
Employing City Help Under  
Operation of Tax League.**

"There are many different views being expressed as to whether or not the proposed city charter should contain the provision for a civil service board," said J. H. Johnston, secretary of the Tax Payers' Efficiency League this morning. "One view is that taken by a number of business men who declare that it is inconsistent to elect men to office and expect them to run their offices with the utmost economy unless they have control of the appointment of employees in their departments.

"On the other hand, are the citizens of limited education who say that it is a deprivation of their rights to have to stand competitive examinations in order to secure civil service positions.

"Then there is the great body of persons who believe in the civil service system who say that by competitive examinations is the best way through which to secure efficient service in the minor city offices. They believe that such examinations should be practical as to the position and not theoretical as to general knowledge and that it works no hardship to the individual who can not fill the place by reason of his lack of experience and knowledge of the position."

In the present draft of the proposed charter the civil service clause retained. Mr. Johnston said that he would like to have the views of any citizens who may care to express themselves on this subject.

## RAIN CHECKS FIRING

**Mexican Border is Quiet Following  
Flooding of Trenches—American Re-  
inforcement Arrive.**

Naco, Ariz., Dec. 19.—The sixth brigade of infantry, reinforcing the American cavalry already here, is arriving here. The first train with six companies of the 18th regiment came at dawn.

Rain has flooded the Mexican trenches and is checking the enthusiasm of the riflemen across the border.

The morning bombardment of the Maytorena positions by General Hill, commanding the Carranza garrison was lacking today. A few Mexican bullets fell on the American ship last night.

## ASSASSIN STARS REFORM COUNCILMAN IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Dec. 19.—An attempt to assassinate Dr. Geo. A. Dillinger, a "reform" councilman, was made on the porch of his home last night.

An unidentified assailant attacked the doctor while a companion played the lookout. After a terrific struggle the doctor drove off his assailant.

Dr. Dillinger received a knife wound in the neck, not believed to be serious. The doctor has been active in aiding the city morals bureau in closing up resorts.

## MARINES RETURNING HOME FROM HAITI FOR CHRISTMAS

Washington, Dec. 19.—The American marines of the fifth regiment the last of the expeditionary forces to return from recent foreign service, are going home for Christmas.

The navy department has been notified that the transport Hancock with the full regiment, left Port au Prince, Haiti last night for Philadelphia. They have been on service for sometime in Haiti and the Dominican republic, both of which are now quite again.

## Question of Method to Be Used in Employing City Help Under Operation of Tax League.

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